National Roma Network Forum

29 September 2015

Welcome and Overview

Dave Brown
Head of Migration Yorkshire
Roma Community Development

Juliana Cristina Da Penha
*Friends of Romano Lav*

Friends of Romano Lav
A community development approach
Friends Romano Lav is

*a newly established organisation (SCO, since 2013) based in South-East Glasgow

*the first Roma organisation established in Glasgow

* work with Roma and non-Roma people

We work in Govanhill area

*the Scotland’s most ethnically diverse community
(Scottish Refugee Council, 2015)

*the Roma are the largest ethnic minority population in Govanhill
## Network of service providers involved in Roma work

- CHP
- Oxfam
- Glasgow Life
- GYP
- Govanhill Law Centre
- Crossroads
- Education services
- WESREC
- Positive Action in Housing

## Gaps in Services

- Finances
- Access to training and employment
- Sustainability of work
- Romanian Roma
- Community development

## Romano Lav Aims

- Improve living standards
- Share information
- Raise cultural awareness of the Roma communities
- Working together to better support our community but also to ensure Roma rights and that Roma people speak for themselves
Community Development Approach

“collective action for social and environmental justice”

“a framework within which smaller projects can be seen as contributing to a bigger whole”

How?

Our projects

*Urban Opera Rap of Life
Theatre and music piece about young migrants, Roma and non Roma living in Glasgow

*Romane Cerhenia (Roma Stars)
Traditional Music and Dance
International Roma Day

St Nicolas Homecoming
Cookery Classes and Community CookBook

Public awareness about Scottish Independence Referendum
What can be done?

- Roma should be given public recognition as the ethnic minority in the UK

- Roma need to stand up and speak on their own behalf.

“To be Roma is not any disadvantage and that is where the integration starts”

Thank you for your attention!
Roma Community Development

Ladislav Balaz
Europe Roma Network-UK-EU

Roma Community Development

Roma Voices of Manchester
Community Group
How we started

- Drop-in advice sessions:
  Roma-led outreach work
  Responsive to client needs
  **Self-reliance**
How we started

• Change perception, reach out to others

What we do

• Training for young people
What we do

- Public events

What we do

- Meetings with local representatives
What we do

• Conferences and networking

What we do

• Media interviews
What we do

• A voice for Roma

Our partnerships
Contacts

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Roma Leadership

Denisa Psenickova
AIRE Centre
Roma Leadership

Orsolya Orsos
Supporting Roma Voice

Orsolya Orsos,
Community Coordinator, BHA for Equality

National Roma Network Forum
29 September 2015, Birmingham
Who are the Roma?

- Definition
- Situation:

Leadership

- Leadership: Leadership is the ability to develop a vision that motivates others to move with a passion toward a common goal

- The leadership foresees a solution to enduring issues that Roma people face - within politics and through politics
  - Representation and active participation
Who represents the Roma?

- Roma or non-Roma but experts?
- leaders with traditional Romani leadership figures - “genuine and legitimate” + trust BUT they were not involved in mainstream politics
- the present-day leaders might be unknown to many Roma they claim to represent; they don’t enjoy such authority and respect among their own people.

Challenges and opportunities

- Challenges:
  - Diversity – not unified group
  - Recognition of Roma as a legitimate minority
  - Question of representativeness, accountability, legitimacy
  - Lack of consensus among Romani elite and leaders
  - Structure of the political system
- Opportunities:
  - The issue of leadership and participation is increasing
  - Roma civic sector – but it needs to be well-prepared
  - Roma issues have been addressed (but need more!) > create mechanisms and organizational structures
  - Partnership role
Example
Supporting Roma Voice project

Leadership element:

- **Aim:**
  - Build a new relationship between local government and local Roma
  - Rebuild dignity and pride, and develop confidence, competence, and self-reliance
- 6 Roma advocates (coming from different Roma communities, majority of them are women)
- Encouraging, training and providing them the opportunity to take responsibility in representing, negotiating Roma interests
- Increasing their skills (political!) – working with policy makers
- (Critical) voice of the community

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Q&A

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Roma Leadership

Michael Daduc

Summary

Dave Brown
Head of Migration Yorkshire